

Montana Hemp Advisory Committee
Wednesday April 3, 2019, 10am to 3pm
Department of Agriculture, Conference Room 225

The meeting was called by Director Ben Thomas at 10:00am

Introductions – Those in attendance were:

Ben Thomas, Director MT AGR	Perry Miller, MSU
Jackee Beck, Committee Member	Mark Nechodom, MT AGR
Ross Johnson, Committee Member	Beth Eiring, MT AGR
Jeremy Anderson, Committee Member	Ian Foley, MT AGR
Jamie Fitterer, Committee Member	Andy Gray, MT AGR
Arlin Fratzke, Committee Member	Christy Clark, MT AGR
Bart Icopini, Committee Member	Bob Ballensky, MT AGR
Ken Elliott, Committee Member	Dani Jones, MT AGR
Dean Nelson, Committee Member	Jerin Borrego, MT AGR
Cort Jensen, MT AGR Attorney	<u>Public Sign in list attached</u>

Roles and Responsibilities, Accounting:

Christy Clark discussed the process of creating an advisory committee and where we are in the process. Also, the roles and responsibilities that the Hemp Advisory Committee would play, along with the function of the Marketing Department.

- Assessment and Fees
 - Collection and Refunds
 - Voluntary
- Grants and Proposals
- Committee Meetings
 - Set up, minutes, ballot collection
 - Budget

Commodity Dealer Licensing Process:

Bob Ballensky discussed the dealer licensing program and what is required to receive the license.

- Lengthy process
- Paperwork required
- License needs to be obtained

Laws, Rules, and Legislative Update:

Cort Jensen discussed the laws and rules within the State of Montana pertaining to MT Hemp.

- Legislative update
- 2014 and 2018 Farm Bill
- MT State Hemp Law
- License was issued in 2017 from the DEA to import seed for research

- Montana is fully compliant

Public Comment: No comment currently

Meeting broke for lunch

Laws, Rules, and Legislative Update continued:

- Farmer numbers grew in 2018, as compared to 2017
- Montana had the largest Hemp Acres in 2018
- Montana Hemp Plan is a public document
- Sampling/testing
 - MT state size will play a factor
 - Staffing needed
 - Costs will be covered by fees collected
 - Waiting on USDA regulations
- MT *cannot* waive fees, if MT does not charge a fee USDA will not accept the “MT Plan”, and all farmers will be under USDA
- What is a Location? -still to be determined- working, comments welcome
 - Ben “Not trying to bring in more funds, by definition of the word “location”

Organic Hemp:

Andy Gray discussed “Certified” Organic Hemp

- Third Party Independent Seeds
 - Montana Seed Growers Agency/Association

Pesticides:

Jerin Borrego discussed pesticides

- Minimum Risk Pesticides
 - Contain minimum risk ingredients
 - Montana does register low/minimum risk products
- Special Local Needs (around 30 products)
- Emergency Exemption (only 2)
- Ongoing List on the State Database

Assessments and Fees:

- Christy Clark discussed that regulatory fees are different from assessment fees. Assessment fees are used for research, education, and marketing.
 - Assessment must be collected on the first point of sale, can be tricky
- Andy Gray gave an estimate on what funds would possibly be needed to cover costs
- Fees were discussed for each “seed group”, no amount was decided upon
- Perry Miller from MSU, research takes money; assessment is needed

Other Legal Considerations:

- Cort discussed the need for a "Transportation Map", for correct and legal transportation
 - State to State map, contact with growers, what states are legal for Hemp
- Cort discussed CBD
- MT AGR will work with County Health
- Processors discussed- Out of State and Montana

Questions/Public Comment:

John Porterfield- Is assessment dollars the only way for research?

John Porterfield- Hail Insurance Coverage?

A-Yes, through the MT State Hail program

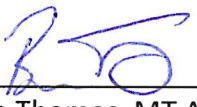
Stan Bates- Suggested that the department explains (to the public) the fees and what the money will be used for.

Bum Stiffarm- wished there would have been more tribal involvement/interest in the meeting.

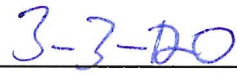
Ben talked about the Public Comment period, ending on April 9.
Cort suggested to email or write in questions if there were more

Adjourn:


Ben adjourned the meeting at 3:17pm



Ben Thomas, MT AGR Director



Date



Dani Jones, Hail Insurance Technician



Date

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

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Montana Department of Agriculture	PLACE/ROOM:	Conference Room 225

NAME:

Travis Cline

Dale C. Cline

Perry Miller

Committee number:

MARK AYRAK

KEN ELLIOTT

Committee member

Bart Icopini



STAN BATES

Bum STIFFARM

Jamie Fitterer

Committee number

Jim Danko

Roger Schroeder

Tom Schroeder

Julie Hansen

ARLIN FRATZKE

Committee number

Don Wink Rulph

Jackie Beck

Committee number

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Montana Department of Agriculture

PLACE/ROOM:

Conference Room 225

NAME:

Bill & Gay Eymann

Keith Erwin

Tyrone Ferguson

Chris Vander

KEVIN HEANEY

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